



The County Observer

Roanoke County Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

YOUTH VIOLENCE REMAINS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTRY, AFFECTING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES.

In the year 2000, more than 400,000 youth ages ten to 19 were injured as a result of violence, and approximately one in 28 of these injuries required hospitalization. Most young homicide victims are killed with guns. In 1999, 82 percent of homicide victims 15 to 19 years old were killed with firearms.

Primary prevention strategies include educating youth and their families about gun safety and the consequence of illegal gun use, conflict and anger management training, restricting access to guns through legislation, and creating opportunities for youth development. Mentoring strategies that emphasize the importance of a positive adult role model in reducing risk for violence and delinquent behavior have also been proven successful.

Caught in the Crossfire (CiC), a youth violence prevention program in Oakland, California, works to "close the revolving door of violence." This collaborative effort brings together Youth ALIVE! (a nonprofit organization committed to preventing youth violence in California communities), several area hospitals, and the local school district. CiC staff provide emotional and crisis support to

youth who are hospitalized with a gunshot, stabbing, or other violence-related injury; are on probation for violent offenses; or are suspended or at risk for suspension from school for violent behavior. These trained intervention specialists, who have all experienced violence in their own lives, provide bedside visits to hospitalized youth. After their release, CiC staff continue to provide support and mentoring to the youth as well as to their family and friends, working in collaboration with social workers, probation officers, school staff, and other youth service professionals to promote healthy, nonviolent lifestyles. In addition, CiC staff link youth with local resources that meet such needs as medical services, educational programs, and job training. According to a program evaluation, more than 90 percent of participants have avoided violent re-injury and not one has retaliated against an assailant.

For more information contact: Marla Becker, Associate Director Caught in the Crossfire Youth ALIVE! 3300 Elm Street, Oakland, CA 94609. (510)594-2588 x 307. Fax (510)594-0667. mbecker@youthalive.org. www.youthalive.org.

Editor's note: From the National Crime Prevention Council-Monthly Action Kit.

RESIDENTIAL SPEED LIMITS

Please keep in mind that over the last several months a frequent problem brought up in Neighborhood Watch meetings is speeding in residential areas. As of July 1, 2004, there are much tougher penalties for speeding in residential areas. The fines for speeding in residential neighborhoods are much higher as well. For instance, the new legislation gives a \$7.00 fine for each mile over the speed limit plus requires other court costs of close to \$200.00. Someone speeding 15 mph over the speed limit in a residential area will pay close to \$400.00. As a result of the complaints, the Roanoke County Police Department will be running more radar in residential areas as time allows. Please pay close attention to speed limit signs as you travel through your neighborhood.

BURGLARIES

The following burglaries occurred during the months of June, July, and August. The data for September was not available at the time of printing this paper.

District one had one residential burglary in the 7600 block of Woodhaven Road, one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Ponderosa Drive, and one business burglary in the 8100 block of Plantation Road.

District two had one residential burglary in the 5300 block of

Endicott Street, one residential burglary in the 2500 block of Summit Ridge Road, one residential burglary in the 7200 block of South Barrens Road, one residential burglary in the 5200 block of Redcort Drive, one residential burglary in the 5700 block of Malvern Road, one residential burglary in the 1000 block of Grove lane, two business burglaries in the 6100 block of Plantation Circle, one business burglary in the 6900 block of Williamson Road, one business burglary in the 6400 block of Williamson Road, and one business burglary in the 6700 block of Williamson Road.

District three had one residential burglary in the 600 block of Devonshire Drive, one residential burglary in the 4000 block of Poplar Grove Drive, and one residential burglary in the 400 block of Cameron Drive.

District four had one residential burglary in the 2700 block of Tanglewood Drive, one residential burglary in the 5200 block of Flintlock Road, one residential burglary in the 5200 block of Hunting Hills Drive, one residential burglary in the 6400 block of Merriman Road, one residential burglary in the 5000 block of Crossbow Circle, one residential burglary in the 8000 block of Starlight Lane, one residential burglary in the 4200 block of Elm View Road, one business burglary in the 5400 block of Franklin Road, one business burglary in the 5700 block of Crystal Creek Drive, and one business burglary in the 6300 block of Merriman Road.

District five had one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Potomac Avenue, one residential burglary in the 4300 block of Garst Mill Road, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Garst Cabin Drive, one business burglary in

the 3500 block of Electric Road, one business burglary in the 4300 block of Garst Mill Road, and one business burglary in the 3500 block of Brambleton Avenue.

District six had one residential burglary in the 5100 block of Hathaway Drive, one residential burglary in the 5500 block of McVitty Road, one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Wynne Road, one residential burglary in the 2300 block of Brookfield Drive, one residential burglary in the 5400 block of Castle Rock Road, one residential burglary in the 3300 block of Kingswood Drive, one residential burglary in the 4500 block of Keagy Road, one residential burglary in the 6500 block of Sylvan Brook Road, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Winterberry Square, one business burglary in the 4900 block of Hidden Valley School Road, one business burglary in the 2200 block of Electric Road, and one business burglary in the 5000 block of Grandin Road Extension.

District seven had one residential burglary in the 1600 block of Millbridge Road, one residential burglary in the 6400 block of Kelley Street, one residential burglary in the 1400 block of Lancer Drive, one residential burglary in the 6200 block of Meacham Road, one business burglary in the 3600 block of West Main Street, and one business burglary in the 5900 block of Dow Hollow Road.

District eight had one residential burglary in the 5300 block of Catawba Valley Drive, one residential burglary in the 1800 block of Hanging Rock Court, and one business burglary in the 1800 block of Thompson Memorial.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Aggressive driving is a growing problem these days all across the country. Everyone seems to be in a hurry and very few people ever allow themselves enough time to get to their destination early. Aggressive driving does cause accidents that result in high insurance costs and unfortunately in some cases, death. The following are some points to keep in mind about aggressive driving:

Aggressive driving is behavior that endangers, or is likely to endanger, people or property.

Aggressive drivers are easy to spot. These high-risk drivers take out their frustrations on fellow motorists by failing to extend common driver courtesies and disregarding traffic laws.

Exceeding the speed limit, making unsafe and excessive lane changes, following too closely, failing to obey traffic signals and failing to grant the right-of-way are all symptoms of aggressive drivers.

Protect yourself from aggressive drivers by moving out of their way and avoiding eye contact. Put your pride in the back seat and avoid their challenge.

TRAFFIC STOPS

Many times in life the simplest things seem to give people the most difficulty. Something that every driver on the roadway sees on a routine basis is a traffic stop. At some point in your driving career most drivers will be stopped by a police officer and how the driver reacts to the stop sets the whole tone for the encounter. Not every traffic stop has to be for a negative reason. You may have an equipment problem that needs to be addressed. Stay calm and be

patient as the officer makes contact. Keep the following points in mind to maintain safety during a traffic stop:

- Place your hands on the steering wheel or up in plain sight as the officer approaches your vehicle.
- At night, turn your inside light on so that all occupants and movements can be observed.
- There is plenty of time, don't reach for your purse or wallet until the officer asks that you do so.
- Frequently, people panic when they see blue lights. Don't stop in the middle of an intersection, when you find a safe place pull off to the side of the road.

As officers, we have to consider your safety, our safety, and the safety of other drivers when making a traffic stop. For this reason, the officer may follow you for some distance in order to find a safe spot to make the traffic stop. Many people consider this practice as playing games with the driver by the police officer, but it isn't. We want to make sure that everyone gets home safely at the end of the day.

COMMENDATION

Back in the summer, the Roanoke County Police Department investigated a series of vehicles that had windows shot out by a BB gun. There were over seventy separate reports of vehicles that had been damaged across Roanoke County. With very few leads, Officer T.L. Akins was able to use his investigative skills over numerous hours to bring charges against three subjects.

Congratulations to Officer Akins on a job well done.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The Roanoke County Police Department would like to wish all the children a very Happy Halloween. While out Trick-or-Treating, here are some guidelines that you should follow:

- Make sure that you are with an adult at all times.
- Make sure to only go to houses that you or your parents know the residents.
- Wear something reflective so that people driving vehicles can see you.
- Before eating candy, make sure that your parents inspect it.
- Never get into a vehicle with a stranger for any reason.
- If someone does try to get you into a car with them, make sure that you tell your parents so that they can notify the police.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

With the holidays coming up, there is also a chance that criminal activity will increase. The Roanoke County Police Department has investigated a significant number of smash and grabs in daycare and restaurant parking lots over the last year. A smash and grab is where car windows are broken and items stolen, often these items have been purses. Remember to keep your purse with you at all times

and keep an eye on it. If you can't take it with you, lock it in the trunk of your vehicle. The main thing is to make sure that it is completely out of sight.

Don't assume that just because you are going to run into a building for a few minutes that your property is safe. In many cases criminals stake out a parking lot and watch for potential victims. It will be getting dark earlier and with the holidays approaching, please use extra caution to keep you and your property safe.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	561-8036
Criminal Investigation	561-8063
Vice-Narcotics	561-8097
Crime Prevention	561-8062
rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov	
Rape Aggression Defense	561-8074
RAD@roanokecountyva.gov	
AEP (Street Lights, Outages):	1-800-956-4237

CRIME Line 344-8500

WEBSITES

Roanoke County Police
www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police

Commonwealth of Virginia
Terrorism Alert System new
website address
www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/

National Sheriff's Association
Neighborhood Watch Program
www.usaonwatch.org

RVTV 3 – Roanoke Valley
Television
www.rvtv.org